

Appendix A: Detailed discussion of the references cited in the three Search Reports relating to the three French Patent Application which priority was claimed when filing the PCT patent application.

1/ The invention as claimed

Claim 1 is directed to a communications method that includes:

- an operation of receiving a succession of pages originating from a first site of a computer network,
- an operation of memory storage of information representative of the said succession of pages, outside the said first site, and
- an operation of associating a certificate of integrity with the memory-stored information representative of the said succession of pages, the said certificate of integrity being stored in memory in association with the information representative of the said succession of pages, the said certificate of integrity making it possible to detect any alteration to the memory-stored information representative of the said succession of pages, subsequent to its being stored in memory.

Thanks to the features recited in claim 1, the stored information representative of the succession of pages associated with the certificate of integrity testify the that are received during the operation of receiving.

2/ US 5,825,881 teaches a system for conducting commerce over a large public network. As explained on col. 1, line 18, one problem to be solved is the lack of a secure means for transferring information and money. Another problem is that the customer must type confidential financial information each time the customer wishes to purchase something from a merchant. See col. 1, line 28.

US 5,825,881 teaches that each transaction involves a merchant, a customer and a financial institution, such a bank. Each merchant, customer and financial institution has its own encryption key. A copy of each such key exists in a central, secure database system. See col. 1, lines 55-60. When the customer clicks on a "checkout" link, that causes an itemized price list to be downloaded to the customer computer. Once downloaded, this information is merged with information locally stored on the customer's computer. This information is sent back to the merchant. Credit card information from the customer is sent directly to the financial institution and the merchant never receives the customer's credit card information. The financial institution informs the merchant that the transaction is complete. See col. 2, lines 3-13 and col. 3, line 62 to col. 4 line 9.

US 5,825,881 does not describe, teach or suggest any of the features of claim 1 as set forth above. US 5,825,881 relates to secure payment and absolutely not to storing information representative of received pages associated with a certificate of integrity.

3/ US 5,909,023 relates to techniques for estimating a demand from a user. Purchase history of each good purchased by each user is stored at a service offering system. Then, that system calculates a purchase interval of each good purchased by the user. The system

also estimates a demand occurrence time for each good and to supply a user with the merchandise information at the estimated time of the next purchase. See abstract, col. 1, lines 51-57, col. 4, lines 28 to col. 5, line 6 and Fig. 1.

US 5,909,023 does not describe, teach or suggest any one of the features of the present invention as recited in claim 1. In particular, US 5,909,023 does not describe, teach or suggest storing information representative of received pages in association with a certificate of integrity.

4/ US 5,883,810 relates to a secure payment method using online commerce card issued by an issuing institution. When a customer desires to conduct an online transaction, the customer asks the issuing institution to issue a transaction number for a single transaction. The issuing institution generates a temporary transaction number and associates it with the permanent account number in a data record. The transaction number looks like a real card number. The customer uses the transaction number as a credit card number for paying. When the merchant submits a request for authorization, the issuing institution recognizes the transaction number and processes the authorization request using the real customer account number in place of the transaction number. See abstract and col. 8, lines 15 to col. 9, line 4.

US 5,883,810 does not describe, teach or suggest any one of the features of the present invention as recited in claim 1. In particular, US 5,883,810 does not describe, teach or suggest storing information representative of received pages in association with a certificate of integrity.

5/ US 5,715,314 relates to a network-based sales system. A buyer computer is programmed to receive a user request for purchasing a product, and to cause a payment message to be sent to a payment computer. The message comprises a product identifier identifying the product. The payment computer then sends an access message encrypted with a cryptographic key to the merchant computer. The merchant computer verifies that the access message was created with the cryptographic key and causes the product to be sent to the user. See col. 1, line 50 to col. 2, line 2 and Fig. 2, operations 32, 34, 44, 90, 92, 94 and 102.

US 5,715,314 does not describe, teach or suggest any one of the features of the present invention as recited in claim 1. In particular, US 5,715,314 does not describe, teach or suggest storing information representative of received pages in association with a certificate of integrity.

6/ US 5,826,241 relates to a payment system to enable a first Internet user to make a payment to a second Internet user. The payment system provides cardholder accounts for the first and second Internet users. When the second user sends a request over the Internet to a front end portion of the payment system requesting payment from the first user, the front end portion of the payment system queries the first user over the Internet whether to proceed with payment to the second user.

US 5,826,241 does not describe, teach or suggest any one of the features of the present invention as recited in claim 1. In particular, US 5,826,241 does not describe, teach or suggest storing information representative of received pages in association with a certificate of integrity.

7/ EP 0,927,945 relates to a method and system for placing a purchase order via a communications network. The order is placed by a purchaser at a client system and received by a server system. The server system assigns a client identifier to the client system and associates the assigned client identifier with received purchaser information. The server system sends to the client system the assigned client identifier and an HTML document identifying the item and including an order button. In response to the selection of the order button, the client system sends to the server system a request to purchase the identified item. The server system combines the purchaser information associated with the client identifier to generate an order to purchase the item. See col. 3, lines 13-39.

EP 0,927,945 does not describe, teach or suggest any one of the features of the present invention as recited in claim 1. In particular, EP 0,927,945 does not describe, teach or suggest storing information representative of received pages in association with a certificate of integrity.

8/ WO 95/16971 relates to a system for purchasing goods or information over a computer network. In response to user inquiries, buyer computers retrieve and display advertisements from merchant computers. The buyer computer allows the user to purchase the product described by an advertisement. See fig. 6 and page 10, line 16 to page 12, line 30.

WO 95/16971 does not describe, teach or suggest any one of the features of the present invention as recited in claim 1. In particular, WO 95/16971 does not describe, teach or suggest storing information representative of received pages in association with a certificate of integrity.

9/ WO 98/21679 relates to a system and method for conducting commerce over a distributed network. More particularly, WO 98/21679 describes the functions of specialized client application: an electronic shopping basket, an electronic wallet containing payment source information and an electronic address book containing shipping address information. See on figs. 1, 4 and 5, the components of the consumer computer 102. See also, operations 608 and 616, on fig. 6, 954 on fig. 9, 1028 on fig. 10, 1124 on fig. 11.

WO 98/21679 does not describe, teach or suggest any one of the features of the present invention as recited in claim 1. In particular, WO 98/21679 does not describe, teach or suggest storing information representative of received pages in association with a certificate of integrity.

10/ DE 198 42 673 A1 relates to a system and method for organizing transactions between a client and a merchant with the help of a third-party server. See Abstract and Fig. 1.

DE 198 42 673 A1 does not describe, teach or suggest any one of the features of the present invention as recited in claim 1. In particular, DE 198 42 673 A1 does not describe, teach or suggest storing information representative of received pages in association with a certificate of integrity.